

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, October 22, 2007
The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room A

The following members were present:

Deb Dubin	Dick Hyde
Lori Elliott	Omri Praiss
Judy Goodman	Rich Yawitz

Excused/Absent

Alex Berger
Mimi Deem
Jill Indovino

Also Present:

Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks and Recreation

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the September 24 meeting were approved as read.

Director's Report

Ms. DeForrest reported that the Shaw Park Ice Rink repairs to the ammonia suppression system are underway and will be completed by November 5. New carpeting has been ordered, painting has been completed and we are working on getting additional items to freshen up the area. The new system will be tested one week prior to Thanksgiving.

The DeMun fence repair is complete and it looks fantastic. The Shaw Park Aquatic Center has a new roof and the cover is over the dive tank. The repairs to the Children's pool are scheduled to begin next week.

The program revenue in FY 2007 was \$1,180,939. This is equivalent to approximately 34,000 program participants. The City facilities which include Aquatics, Tennis, Camps, Fitness, Sports and General programming took in \$409,858; compared to \$360,958 in FY 2006. The Center of Clayton programming which includes Aquatics, Sports, Fitness, Camps and General programming of \$771,354; compared to \$768,449 in FY 2006. We saw significant growth in Aquatic programming and General programming offerings; decrease in enrolling in Personal Training.

The Fall 2 Session runs from October 14 - December 8, 2007 and is followed by a 4 week mini session. The 8 week sessions resume in January 2008.

We are currently evaluating current special events that we offer. We are primarily looking at Clean Up the Park day because we have not had much participation from the community. Our thoughts are to change this event to an Earth Day celebration. Ms. DeForrest is going to work with the Environmental and Ecology Society to see if they would sponsor that type of event.

All That Glitters will take place on Friday, December 7 from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in Downtown Clayton. There will be fireworks, free skating at the ice rink, and carriage rides. The cost of fireworks is approximately \$4,000 for this event and a company sponsors these fireworks so they not come out of the City's budget. In the past there was an article in the paper stating that the cost of fireworks for Taste of Clayton was \$50,000 when the cost is only \$8,000.

At the next BOA meeting the American Red Cross will present the Red Cross Community award to Water Safety and Life guarding instructors. The Aquatic department certified 32 instructors this year. The award ceremony will celebrate our commitment to a safer workplace and community.

The Ice Rink Task Forced presented their summary report to the BOA and did an excellent job. Basically their report stated what they would like to see at the site in the future. They would like it if the City would hire a consultant to create a design for a building that would enhance the ice rink,

shield the sun and cover it so people could enjoy the ice rink year round. Further, in the off season put an artificial surface field on the rink. They presented 3 different scenarios. One part of the presentation showed examples of what other cities do with their ice rink facilities. Ms. DeForrest will send the entire report to the Commission. The longevity of what is taking place at the ice rink is approximately 10-12 years. In summary, the Ice Rink Task Force looked at this as an entire project. Making this a designation place may take several years. Our goal this year is to increase numbers and get people to use the ice rink.

The Hanley House structures report will be finalized by November 12. The report will be presented to the BOA at their November 27 meeting. Ms. DeForrest noted that report is very long and she will see if she can send it to Commission members as a PDF file or place it on the City's website.

Definition of a Family

Ms. DeForrest reported that we have 460 Family memberships and the average number of people on a family membership is 4.06 people so there is not need at this time to limit how many can be on a membership. Ms. DeForrest and the mayor have been under some fire due to the way our current definition is written, primarily because it says living with a spouse. There was discussion about Washington University students potentially coming to the Center to say they qualify as a family because they live in a dorm room with one other person. Ms. DeForrest stated that we have not seen an issue with these students in the past. The primary reason for the change is related issues we have had with non-traditional families. After more discussion the Commission made a recommendation to move forward with the change. Ms. Dubin made the initial motion to move forward, Mr. Praiss seconded the motion and all Commission members were in favor of the change.

Master Plan Implementation

Ms. DeForrest presented to the Commission information about the Charter the City of Clayton adopted when they created the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission is to act as an advisory board to the BOA in matters pertaining to parks and public recreation.

The Commission shall:

1. assist in the planning and development of recreation programs and programs designed to safeguard and promote the welfare of youth and other citizens of the community.
2. promote and stimulate public interest therein; and
3. solicit to the fullest extent possible the cooperation of school authorities and public and private agencies.

The Parks and Recreation Department's mission statement is - To improve the quality of life for our citizens through the provision of comprehensive leisure services and recreational opportunities to individuals of all ages, abilities, and interests in a safe, healthy and pleasant environment.

The question presented about the Master Plan is what does the Commission want to do via strategic planning? Ms. DeForrest noted that the December meeting could be dedicated to strategic planning. It was noted that the Commission could identify the communities priorities and what they are interested in seeing completed via the Master Plan. Ms. DeForrest presented priority project and long term projects. The categories they want to focus on are estimated cost of project, grants available to fund projects, park name and location (ward), and survey ranking. Some things are already at the top of the priority lists because they are already scheduled to take place. In the past a lot of money and time has been spent on Shaw Park. We need to look at the cost of all projects at all of our parks.

Ms. Dubin suggested that after the first of the year the Commission have a retreat where everyone can talk about their interests and maybe develop some issues that the Commission would like to look at throughout 2008.

Ms. Goodman talked about the fact that the BOA goal is going to look at all committees and commissions. They are going to see which ones they can view ask task forces and if some commissions can be expanded. The discussion will also include whether it is necessary for all groups to meet once a month or if they can meet on a quarterly basis. Sometimes it is better to have groups that are issued focused. Ms. DeForrest will send a grid to the Commission that will help with strategic planning.

Old Business / New Business

The Center of Clayton will get a new phone system in November which will include replacing the fibers.

Mr. Hyde stated that the Joint Study Committee has completed their work. The final recommendations were not to form partnerships with other cities. It was noted that the Parks and Recreation departments continue discussing having partnerships in the future. At this time there are events and services that cities in the surrounding areas already do together so there may be additional partnerships in the future. Mr. Hyde also noted that the Police - Special Olympics 5K run has been expanded by the St. Louis Track Club this year to include a half marathon. They are also looking for volunteers. We will send out an email to try to get volunteers for this great event in our community.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise Ucinski